

REPORTS. •

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1864.

CONCORD:
FOGG, HADLEY & COMPANY PRINTERS.
1864.



SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen credit the town for the year ending March 1863, as follows:

List of taxes assessed April, 1863,	\$5.629 76
Non-resident highway tax,	2 62
Cash in Treasury April 1, 1863,	340 62
Received of Martin Sleeper for '61 and '62,	694 02
Reuben Lowell, note,	340 75
Use of the town house and hearse,	7 00
Literary fund,	82 89
Railroad tax,	208 62
Bounty received on substitutes,	1.200 00
For State aid to soldiers' families,	1.054 87
	<hr/> \$9.561 15

For money hired of—

J. C. Draper,	\$1.000 00
David Mason,	1.000 00
Moses Merrill,	50 00
J. C. Draper,	1.000 00
Nathaniel Bachelder,	1.000 00
Amos Brown,	350 00
Levi Nelson,	100 00
Peter Whittemore,	200 00
Hiram Heath,	200 00
Clark Merrill,	100 00
John T. Whittemore,	300 00
Levi Roby,	2.500 00
Gustavus Bartlett,	1.000 00
John Hastings,	145 20
Levi Bartlett,	800 00
	<hr/> 9.745 20
	<hr/> \$19.306 35

Disbursements of the Selectmen.

Paid County tax,	501 50
" State tax,	723 60
	<hr/>
	\$1,225 10

Abatement of Taxes.

J. W. Haines,	\$1 11
D. C. Willey, for the years '61 and '62,	7 41
Eli Rowe, " 1862,	2 90
E. P. Sawyer, " "	2 07
J. Currier, jr., " "	2 07
Lyman Hall, " "	2 07
D. L. Bennett, " "	2 07
L. H. Parker, " "	2 07
M. W. White, " "	45
Dutton store, taxed to J. T. Sanborn occupants,	9 08
Walter Hayward 1863,	51
A. C. Chase, " "	1 00
S. D. Shepherd, " "	3 75
Timothy Chandler, " "	3 75
Israel Tukey, " "	3 75
Alexander Tukey, " "	3 75
E. Follansbee, " "	3 15
	<hr/>
	\$50 96

School Money.

District No. 1,	\$24 85
2,	102 00
3,	35 85
4,	31 76
5,	34 70
6,	39 36
7,	16 38
8,	44 26
9,	55 72
10,	167 18
11,	65 06
Wilson Foster,	4 50
Caleb Whittemore 2 years,	5 49
	<hr/>
	\$627 11

Highways and Bridges.

Daniel Cass, jr.,	\$2 30
J. T. Sanborn,	1 75
John F. Cass,	7 00
C. A. Holden,	6 00
A. H. George lumber,	18 21
John Hastings,	5 90
C. L. Clay,	2 20
P. C. Bean,	6 60
S. H. Rollins lumber,	8 90
E. Follansbee new road,	48 07
C. H. Mudget,	25 00
E. Follansbee,	8 75
Noah Horn,	3 25
Arial Dickerson,	13 45
S. S. Fellows,	1 15
Alpheus Mitchel,	7 29
O. E. Eastman,	14 85
Smith River Bridge,	80 00
Rollins Bridge,	328 82
Fowler's river bridge,	73 58
I. P. Hardy damage,	3 00
H. C. Shaw, damage,	7 50
Stephen Wells,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$675 27

Support of the Poor.

Mrs. Emmons and family,	\$33 50
Mary Swett,	67 41
Mrs. Stephen Bohonon,	49 40
William Flanders,	72 83
Clark Fuller,	2 25
William Sanborn,	63 30
	<hr/>
	\$288 69

Town Officers' Bills.

Samuel Berry,	6 50
M. W. White,	15 00
J. M. Bishop,	15 00
C. F. Abbott,	30 00
Levi Bartlett,	42 00

For horse wagon and expenses,	12 00	
Samuel H. Rollins,	18 50	
James T. Sanborn,	35 00	
Kiah Wells,	42 00	
	<hr/>	\$216 00

Miscellaneous Expenses.

Town reports to the year 1863,	\$18 00	
Blanks and paper,	3 85	
Lewis W. Fling,	18 48	
Insuring town house,	33 25	
Express and stamps,	5 17	
Mrs. B. Fowler,	20 00	
M. W. White,	1 37	
School district No. 1,	20 00	
Ministerial fund,	6 00	
	<hr/>	\$126 12

State Aid to Families of Volunteers.

Lucinda Prescott,	\$48 00	
Mrs. C. G. Smith,	73 60	
Sara E. Swett,	66 00	
Eluta T. Emmons,	96 00	
Abbie E. Cheney,	28 00	
M. T. Randolph,	96 00	
Ermina Swett,	96 00	
O. C. Brown,	144 00	
P. C. Sanders,	126 00	
C. L. Dow,	108 00	
T. E. Osgood,	96 00	
M. L. Lancy,	48 00	
Susan B. How,	132 00	
James Mushgrove,	96 00	
Alex. Hutchinson,	48 00	
H. A. Drake,	48 00	
C. B. Damon,	72 00	
Sara Jaquith,	48 00	
Annette Jewett,	36 00	
Jane Hutchinson,	48 00	
E. J. Marden,	54 00	
J. H. Ingalls,	24 00	

H. L. Ingalls,	24 00	
Octava W. Harlow,	29 00	
	<hr/>	\$1.684 60

Bounties to Conscripts.

H. W. Favor,	\$300 00	
Edward Marden,	300 00	
Gilbert Dolloff,	300 00	
Edward Merrill,	300 00	
Charles B. Dow,	300 00	
S. C. Bartlett,	300 00	
George S. Fowler,	300 00	
James Webster,	300 00	
M. W. White,	300 00	
	<hr/>	\$2.700 00

Hired Volunteers.

William Colster,	\$540 00	
Charles Dustin,	550 00	
Joseph River,	570 00	
Dennis Sears,	570 00	
Richard Burns,	570 00	
Thomas Osgood,	570 00	
E. S. Gerrish,	570 00	
Patrick Sweney,	570 00	
John Johnson,	568 00	
Paul Stearns,	568 00	
Edmund Plummer,	575 00	
John King,	575 00	
For certificates,	6 00	
	<hr/>	\$6.802 00

On Notes and Debts of the Town.

Nathaniel Bachelder,	\$1.045 95
W. H. Fellows,	101 30
O. S. Hall,	32 06
Levi Bartlett,	1.060 01
E. W. Cheney,	7 99
Seth Cass,	214 29
A. K. Simonds,	317 18

C. N. Drake,	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$2.828 78
Whole amount received,		<hr/> \$19.306 35

Paid Out.

For State and County taxes	\$1.225 10	
Abatement of taxes,	50 96	
School money,	627 11	
Highways and bridges,	675 27	
Support of the poor,	288 69	
Town officers' bills,	216 00	
Miscellaneous expenses,	126 12	
State aid to families of volunteers,	1.684 60	
Bounties to conscripts,	2.700 00	
Hired volunteers,	6.802 00	
Notes and debts of the town,	2.828 78	
	<hr/>	\$17.224 63
In the collector's hands,	\$422 40	
In the treasury,	1.654 21	
	<hr/>	\$2.076 61
		<hr/> \$19.301 24

Estimated Debts of the Town.

F. Bartlett,	\$167 32
M. C. Mudgett,	219 05
J. M. R. Emmons,	350 04
William Green,	364 78
Mrs. J. M. Fellows,	212 00
Miss Crawford,	624 94
A. J. Crockett,	1.097 10
Levi Bartlett,	601 55
O. P. Gurdy,	491 31
Samuel Smith,	109 18
Ira S. Chase,	545 02
Joseph Cass,	488 92
M. J. D. P. & A. D. Nelson,	217 30
Jane Bartlett,	869 20
R. W. Haley,	912 60
Horace M. Emmons,	215 18

Ira S. Chase,	966 40
J. M. R. Emmons,	320 65
John Hastings,	363 60
E. W. Cheney,	101 00
J. C. Draper,	1.045 00
David Mason,	1.020 00
J. C. Drapee,	1.020 00
Moses Merrill,	50 50
Nathaniel Bachelder,	1.010 00
Levi Nelson,	101 50
Peter Whittemore,	202 00
Hiram Heath,	202 00
Clark Merrill,	101 00
John T. Whittemore,	303 00
Levi Roby,	2.517 19
Amos Brown,	848 11
Gustavus Bartlett,	1.002 50
John F. Cass	217 30
	<hr/>
	\$16.939 11

Bounty Notes.

O. P. Hall,	\$201 00
O. S. Hall,	201 00
H. B. Fowler,	216 24
C. N. Drake,	167 30
H. W. Drake,	218 01
D. S. Sleeper,	218 01
D. S. Hutchinson,	218 01
H. A. Fellows,	103 00
Amos Damon,	218 01
	<hr/>
	1.760 58
	<hr/>
	\$20.637 82

Due the Town.

D. S. & C. Bennett, note,	22 34
In collectors hand,	422 40
In the Treasury,	1.654 21
Due from the State,	1.303 60
Due from U. S., for bounties,	3.750 00
	<hr/>
	\$7.152 55
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Balance against the town,	\$13.485 27

Also a demand against O. F. Fowler, of about \$25, due the town.

LEVI BARTLETT, } *Selectmen*
SAML. H. ROLLINS, } *of*
J. T. SANBORN, } *Bristol.*

Bristol, March 1, 1864.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Superintending School Committee for the town of Bristol, submits the following report for the year ending March, 1864 :

The sum raised by town tax the past year for the support of district schools was \$558 00. The amount of income from the local fund was \$45 00. The amount apportioned from the avails of the Literary Fund was \$88 00, and the amount of railroad tax for the support of schools was \$33 00, in all, amounting to \$724.

The whole number of scholars in town, four years of age and upward, who have attended the district schools two or more weeks during the year is 304—151 boys and 153 girls.

The schools, during the past year, with scarcely an exception, have been prosperous and well conducted. The work has been wholly performed by female teachers, no male teachers having been employed during the year. The following is a report of the several districts :

DISTRICT No. 1.

A summer term was taught by Miss M. Jennie Curtice, of Camp-ton. The children seemed eager for knowledge, and were aided in their efforts by a kind and faithful teacher. In some instances the improvement was very rapid. The district seemed to fear too much of a good thing, and the school was dismissed at the close of eight weeks. When scholars seem so anxious to learn, they ought to have more than eight weeks of the fifty-two-for attending school.

DISTRICT No. 2.

The Summer and Fall Term was taught by Miss Helen M. Locke, of East Concord. This has been considered a hard school, but under the management of Miss Locke it was a *good* school. Some of the scholars who could bear no restraint, left during the first term, thereby increasing the quiet and prosperity of the school. The order in school was good for so large a number of small scholars, and the progress creditable, alike to teacher and pupils. A decided improvement was manifested during the second term, and the examination, at its close, showed the teacher had been faithful, and the scholars had profited by her instructions. The damage to the school-house, by fire, prevented a third term by the same teacher.

DISTRICT No. 3.

A full term was taught by Miss Julia A. E. Wallace, of New Hampton. This was among the best schools in town. The discipline was good, and the progress in study thorough. Twelve weeks is a short term of schooling for twelve months, but the scholars of the district seemed not in the least behind those of other districts where more than one term is enjoyed.

DISTRICT No. 4.

The Summer and Winter Term was taught by Miss M. Angie Yeaton, of New Hampton. The teacher gave herself faithfully to the improvement and advancement of her scholars, and with good success: Improvement was plainly manifest during the second term. The closing examination of the school was prevented by the sickness and death of one of the scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Jane Rolfe Moor, of Bristol, and was a model school. The discipline was kind and firm, and the instruction thorough in every respect. No other school has shown so good a knowledge of the elementary sounds of the letters, or applied them better in the pronunciation of words. Were these children educated with the same thoroughness they have been the past winter, they could not fail of making the best scholars. The recitation of Scripture and other exercises at the close of the school were creditable alike to teacher and scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

The Summer and Winter Term was taught by Miss Anna B. Cheney, of Bristol. This was another of our best schools. Miss Cheney has the faculty to interest her scholars in their studies, and the ability to have the best discipline in school. Her school was an example of both. The discipline was good and the advancement uniform. There seemed a steady increase of interest during both terms. Some of the best scholars in town, for their age, are found in this school.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

The winter term of sixteen weeks was taught by Miss Mary E. Patten, of Alexandria. This was her first experience as a teacher, and in regard to her school it might well be said of her as of another Mary, "She hath done what she could." The school, composed of small scholars, under her instruction, made rapid and thorough progress in the elementary branches. Some of the scholars particularly excelled in geography. The teacher's heart was in the work, and it was a prosperous and profitable term. No money was thrown away in this district in supporting this school.

DISTRICT No. 8.

The Fall Term of eight weeks was taught by Miss A. E. Crawford, of Alexandria. This school was well conducted, and was a pleasant and profitable school. The quick, ready replies of the scholars showed they were accustomed to *think* for themselves and not merely to commit to memory. In no other school in town have we found better classes in primary and mental arithmetic. A good school is a *permanent good* and such was this one.

DISTRICT No. 9.

The Summer and Winter term was taught by Miss M. J. W. Chase, of Bristol. The Summer term was prosperous, and rapid improvement was made on the part of some of the pupils. Had the discipline been more strict the school would have been better. The Winter term commenced prosperously and continued so till near its close, when several of the larger scholars left the school. They brought no complaint against the teacher, and the first notice the Superintendent had of any trouble, was a request from the teacher herself that he would visit the school and learn if there was just cause for trouble. I could find no real ground for complaint then, and have been unable to since, even after careful conversation with those who were dissatisfied. The trouble seemed to grow out of former prejudices existing in the district, rather than from any present wrong in the school. If a teacher fails in her duties, or ill uses her pupils, it should be reported to the town Superintendent. The ground for complaint would be at once investigated, and if the charges were sustained the teacher would be dismissed. This is the proper way for proceeding in case of trouble in school. But when scholars become dissatisfied with a teacher in the proper discharge of her duties and without bringing any real charges against her are permitted by their parents to leave the school, it cannot be otherwise than injurious to the district, and especially to the scholars who learn. The greatest injury necessarily results to themselves. Miss Chase continued her school till the close of the term. The closing exercises satisfactorily showed that those who remained and attended to study had found it a profitable term.

DISTRICT No. 10.

The Summer term was taught by Miss A. E. Crawford, of Alexandria. She entered on her labors after the school had been taught two weeks by a substitute who then returned home. Entering the school under these disadvantages Miss Crawford soon succeeded in establishing order and discipline, and the school continued prosperously till its close. For so large a school averaging forty scholars, mostly small children, the order was good and the im-

provement as great as could be expected. The Fall and Winter term of this school was taught by Miss Mary F. Fellows, of Bristol. Miss Fellows had much experience as a teacher and was well recommended, but the school did not prosper under her care so well as was expected. The discipline was at times good, but was not uniform, and the closing examination did not give proof of great advancement. We know this is a hard school, and all due allowance should be made. By her report the Fall term numbered sixty-seven scholars, while the average attendance was but twenty-six. The Winter term numbered fifty-two scholars, average attendance, thirty-three. This shows there was lack of interest somewhere.

DISTRICT No. 11.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss Sara M. C. Musgrove, of Bristol. This was another of our model schools. Discipline good, instruction faithful, thorough and energetic. The pupils made rapid advancement during the short term of eight weeks. The closing exercises were interesting and creditable alike to teacher and scholars. The Winter Term of this school was taught by Miss Sarah C. Moor, of Bristol. The school appeared well at its commencement. As I was not notified of the time it closed, and on this account failed to be present, I am not able to speak of the improvement which was made. Becoming acquainted as I have with your schools during the past year, several facts have come before me which I will mention here

One fact is, that in those schools out of the village the order has been better, and the standard of scholarship higher, than in the village schools. Still the scholars in the village as a general thing have the opportunity of attending school twice as many days during the year as many of those out. That is the reason for this difference. Is it not found in the fact that in our two largest village schools, so many scholars of different ages and attainments are crowded together and form so many different classes, that none of them can be very much benefitted by the labors of the most faithful teacher. Would it not be far better for the educational interests of the village, should the three districts unite and form one graded school of two or more departments, where scholars of equal attainments could pursue the same studies, more successfully and quietly. Other towns have found it far better and more economical to support such schools, and we trust this community is fast coming to the same conclusion.

A second fact we have noticed is that when the same teacher is employed the second term, the school has usually been an improvement on the first term. They have learned their scholars' their work; and can accomplish much more the second than the first term. Let Prudential Committees secure, if possible, the same

teacher for the second and third term, if she has been faithful and trustworthy the first.

Another fact I have clearly felt is, that if we would have able and prosperous schools we must employ only the *best teachers*.—Too many teachers are still employed who are not fitted for their work. Give them a simple sentence and they cannot analyze it correctly. In writing, their sentences commence with small letters, and their spelling is often on an entirely different standard from either Webster or Worcester. Still such teachers are employed, and sent to the Superintending School Committee for a certificate and he is freely censured if it be refused. Let Prudential Committees seek the *best teachers* for their schools, and give preference to those who have proved themselves faithful and competent. We need the *best minds* to educate our children. And then let the parent aid the teacher in her work.

There was one excellent rule when I was a school boy, which seems now to have gone quite out of use. Then if a scholar was punished at school, if known, he received another punishment at home. The enforcement of this rule saved many cases of discipline at school, and much tale bearing out of school. If parents would adopt this rule, instead of pitying the punished child and blaming the teacher, they would be doing the child a far greater kindness, and aid the discipline of the teacher instead of destroying it.

Let parents, teachers, committees and voters, seek the best good of our district schools. They are thus effecting a lasting good for the community and the commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

C. F. ABBOTT, *Supt. School Committee.*

BRISTOL, FEB. 29, 1864.

Text books recommended to be used in the district schools in Bristol:

Holy Bible; Town's Series of Progressive Readers; Town's Progressive Speller; Greenleaf's Series of Arithmetics, and Colburn's Mental Arithmetic; Colton & Fitch's Geographies; Weld & Quackenbos' Grammar; Goodrich's History of the United States; Cutter's Physiology; Davies Elementary Algebra.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Districts.....	Names of teachers:	No. terms of School.	Weeks of term.....	Whole No. scholars..	Average attendance...	Wages of teacher, including board.....	No. of visits of S. S. Committee.....	No. of visits of Prudential Committee..	No. of visits of others.	Appropriation of money for each district..	The proportion to each scholar.....
1	M. Jennie Curtice....	1	9	17	11	11 00	2	0	7	24 85	1 461
2	Helen S. Locke.....	2	20	61	40	20 00	6	2	42	179 77	2 947
3	Julia A. E. Wallace..	1	12	20	14	12 00	2	0	10	35 85	1 792
4	M. Angie Yeaton....	2	18	20	16	12 00	4	1	10	31 76	1 588
5	Jane Rolf Moor.....	1	8	10	7	16 00	2	0	0	34 70	3 47
6	Anna B. Cheney.....	2	20	19	15	9 00	4	3	31	39 36	2 071
7	Mary E. Patten.....	1	16	11	7	6 00	2	1	19	16 38	1 489
8	Almira E. Crawford..	1	10 1-2	18	16	14 00	2	1	18	44 26	2 458
9	M. Jennie Chase.....	2	14 1-2	23	13 1/2	8 00	4	0	9	55 72	2 422
10	Almira E. Crawford..	1	7								
11	Mary F. Fellows.....	2	18	70	33	19 00	7	0	37	167 18	2 388
	Sara M. C. Musgrove..	1	8								
	Sara C. Moor.....	2	9	30	15	13 75	3	0	2	65 06	2 168
	No. scholars residing in the town, attending school out of town.										
				5						7 25	1 45
.....			170	304	17	*\$12 17	38	8	185	702 14	\$231

* Average wages, including board.